

Groups Seek Ban on Sale of "Pornographic' Video Game

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A contingent of 15 American Indians, blacks and white women, protesting nationwide marketing plans for "Custer's Revenge," persuaded the Oklahoma City Council on Tuesday to consider a resolution banning local sales of the video game.

"Custer's Revenge," a game manufactured for the Christmas market by American Multiple Industries, shows a cartoon-like Gen. Custer, wearing only boots and a hat, pursuing a naked Indian woman. Every time they couple, the player scores points.

"I want to turn this over to the city attorney to ban this machine from sale in Oklahoma City and decry this kind of amusement that is designed for an idiot," said Ward 7 Councilman Goree James.

City Attorney Walter Powell said he had not inspected any of the "Custer's Revenge" games, but that he would try to determine whether it could be considered pornographic.

"I haven't seen it, of course, but if it's really X-rated, maybe the district attorney could get involved," Ward 3 Councilman Jack Cornett said.

The games have not been distributed for sale.

The City Council agreed to vote on the resolution next Tuesday after listening to protests by Phyllis Sapp, chairman of the city's Human Rights Commission, and Frances Wise, a member of the Native American Center Inc., 2900 S Harvey.

"The object of the game and the way that the player scores points is to see how many times Custer and the Indian woman can make contact before Custer is shot with an arrow," Sapp said.

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"If we allow such a game to be introduced in Oklahoma City, what are we saying that rape is a game? That minorities are good targets?" Sapp asked the City Council.

The resolution, read aloud to the City Council by Leonard R. Benton, president of the Oklahoma City Urban League, also urges a statewide ban on the sale of "Custer's Revenge."

"If this game is allowed to come into Oklahoma, and not just Oklahoma City, it will set back a lot of hard work by a lot of people to build a relationship between city government and minorities," said Wise, a veteran Indian activist who pushed for the founding of the city's Human Rights Commission.

"It is pornographic to me," Wise said. "As a Native American and as a woman, I feel outraged. It should not be condoned by anyone, especially women and minorities."

(Story continued below...)

About 50 people met Monday at the Native American Center to plan their protest of the "Custer's Revenge" game, Sapp said.

Stuart Kesten, president of American Multiple Industries in Los Angeles, has announced plans to launch Christmas sales of about 75,000 "Custer's Revenge" games with a press conference today in New York City, Sapp said.

Sapp, who also is a member of the national board of directors of the Young Women's Christian Association, is flying to New York City today for a board meeting. She said she will ask the YWCA board to approve an official protest of "Custer's Revenge."

"Of course, the YWCA is very concerned about both racism and sexism," Sapp said.



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Sapp praised the City Council's response Tuesday to her request, but said, "I don't know whether there is anything legal that can be done about this." BIOG: NAME:

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